

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7399

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR US

SUBJ: MFA REPORT ON EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION LIST 14

1. MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION FIRST SECRETARY NECHAYEV CALLED OVER CONSOFF MARCH 29 TO REPORT THAT NICHOLAS BENKO HAD BEEN GRANTED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. IN REPORTING THIS DEVELOPMENT, ABOUT WHICH BENKO HAD ADVISED EMBASSY A FEW DAYS EARLIER, NECHAYEV SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THE LIST OF TWELVE AMCITS (INCLUDING BENKO) HANDED OVER BY AMBASSADOR TO FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV MARCH 14. NECHAYEV LEFT IMPRESSION THAT MFA IS EXAMINING THIS LIST CLOSELY IN COOPERATION WITH "COMPETENT ORGANS."

2. NECHAYEV ALSO PROVIDED MFA'S OWN ANALYSIS OF EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION LIST 14 RPT 14, HANDED OVER BY SECRETARY ROGERS TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN SEPTEMBER 25, 1972. NECHAYEV SAID MFA COUNT REVEALED THAT OF 534 PERSONS ON LIST, 291 HAD RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION TO DATE (ABOUT 54 PERCENT), 89 WERE REFUSED, 13 ARE CURRENTLY HAVING CASES REVIEWED, AND 141 HAVE NOT APPLIED. ASKED TO CLARIFY LATTER FIGURE, NECHAYEV SAID SOME

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HAD NEVER APPLIED AND BALANCE FILED NO APPLICATIONS IN PAST

"THREE" YEARS. IN REPLY TO CONSOFF'S COMMENT ON SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SOVIET REFUSALS, NECHAYEV RECITED TRUISM THAT GRANT OR DENIAL OF EXIT PERMISSION SOLELY WITH COMPETENCE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

3. CONSOFF THANKED NECHAYEV FOR MFA'S EVIDENTLY CAREFUL REVIEW OF LIST 14 AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PROGRESS ON LISTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE.

4. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NECHAYEV REPRESENTS FIRST STATISTICAL ANALYSIS BY MFA OF ONE OF USG'S REPRESENTATION LISTS. MFA MAY BE DEVELOPING AND CITING SUCH STATISTICS IN PART BECAUSE EMBASSY HAS MADE TELLING USE OF ITS OWN FIGURES IN REPRESENTATIONS HERE. EMBASSY'S OWN COUNT WAS THAT 24 PERCENT OF CASES ON LIST 14 HAD RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION AT TIME OF PRESENTATION OF REP LIST 15 IN MAY 1973. ALL UNRESOLVED CASES WERE INCLUDED ON NEWER LIST, WHICH REMAINS ONLY 30 PERCENT RESOLVED. ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT NECHAYEV'S FIGURES COULD BE RAISED, IT IS NONETHELESS NOTEWORTHY THAT MFA AND OTHER SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE APPARENTLY EXAMING USG REP LISTS WITH INCREASING CARE AND SERIOUSNESS.

EXEMPT.
STOESSEL

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